

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 00930 281426Z

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 EB-11 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 AF-10 ARA-16

EA-11 EUR-25 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07

H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 IOE-00 RSR-01

/161 W

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O P 281347Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4417

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 930

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, PFOR, ICAO, IS

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: ROME ICAO SESSION--ISRAELI ISSUE

FROM KEATING

1. AFTER LUNCH FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS CEREMONY AUGUST 28, I RAISED WITH FONMIN ABBA EBAN SUBJECT OF OUR SERIOUS CONCERNS OVER MAJOR ASPECTS OF WHAT SEEMED TO BE EMERGING GOI POSITION IN ROME ALONG LINES STATE 170651 AND STATE 170493. I NOTED TO EBAN THAT, SUBSEQUENT TO CONVERSATION OF THIS MORNING BETWEEN DCM AND ELIZUR, AMBASSADOR ROUNTREE IN ROME HAD SENT US TELEGRAM REPORTING HIS DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR NAJAR AND SECONDING NEED FOR ANOTHER APPROACH TO GOI IN VIEW EVOLVING TACTICAL SITUATION IN ROME.

2. I EMPHASIZED THAT MY GOVERNMENT AND I PERSONALLY WELL RECOGNIZE THAT ISRAEL, AS A SOVERIGN NATION, WILL MAKE ITS
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PAGE 02 JERUSA 00930 281426Z

OWN DECISIONS IN THIS MATTER. I ADDED GOI WILL RECOGNIZE

THAT WE ARE SPEAKING AS FRIEND WHO WANTS TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE UNDER DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. I MADE PARTICULAR POINT, BY REPEATING AT APPROPRIATE TIMES, OF THE NEED FOR GOI TO INDICATE IN ROME THAT IT DOES NOT INTEND TO REPEAT ITS ACTION OF AUGUST 10.

3. AFTER THOROUGH EXPLORATION OF POINTS AT ISSUE, EBAN STATED HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY INSTRUCT ISRAELI DEL IN ROME TO ALTER LANGUAGE OF NAJAR'S STATEMENT IN MANNER DESIGNED TO AVOID PROBLEMS WHICH ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH "COMPARABILITY" OF INCIDENTS WOULD CAUSE AND TO MODERATE PRESENTATION RE ARAB TERRORISM. (STATE 170651). FOCUS, ACCORDING TO EBAN, WOULD BE ON FACT THAT PAST VIOLATIONS AND AUGUST 10 INCIDENT HAD A COMMON ELEMENT IN THAT THEY WERE ALL IN VIOLATION OF CHICAGO CONVENTION. IN THIS RESPECT, EBAN SAID ISRAEL WOULD NOT RPT NOT MENTION FRENCH INCIDENT AT ROME.

3. EBAN ALSO AGREED TO DROP CLAIM THAT AUGUST 10 INCIDENT WAS "ACT OF LEGITIMATE SELF-DEFENSE" AND TO GIVE WHAT GOI CONSIDERED "INDICATION" THAT AUGUST 10 INCIDENT WOULD NOT BE REPEATED. (STATE 170493). FURTHERMORE, HE STATED, GOI WOULD MAKE CLEAR IN ROME ITS WILLINGNESS TO COMPLY WITH ANY AND ALL RULES OF THE GAME DESIGNED TO PROTECT CIVIL AVIATION WHICH MAY EMERGE FROM ROME MEETING WHICH HAVE UNIVERSAL APPLICATION.

4. ACCORDING TO DRAFT PARA HANDED TO ME, NEW LANGUAGE ON THESE POINTS TO BE USED BY ISRAELI REP AT ROME WILL READ ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: BEGIN TEXT: THE ACTION TAKEN AGAINST THE MEA AIRCRAFT WAS AN EXCEPTIONAL MEASURE AGAINST TERRORISM DESIGNED TO SAVE INNOCENT LIVES. ISRAEL, WHICH IS ALREADY A PARTY TO THE HAGUE AND MONTREAL CONVENTIONS, WILL ACCEDE TO, RATIFY AND FAITHFULLY IMPLEMENT ANY ADDITIONAL INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENT RESULTING FROM THIS EXTRAORDINARY ASSEMBLY AND DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE DESIGNED TO PUT AN END TO ANY AND ALL UNLAWFUL INTERFERENCE WITH INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION. END TEXT.

5. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF POLITICAL PRESSURES ON EBAN AT JUST THIS TIME ON ISSUE OF AUGUST 10 INCIDENT, I AM PLEASED WITH THIS FURTHER CHANGE IN ISRAELI POSTURE AND HOPE IT WILL SUBSTANTIALLY MEET PROBLEM AT ROME MEETING UNLESS
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PAGE 03 JERUSA 00930 281426Z

SOMETHING NEW SHOULD INTERVENE.
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